

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 14-19 and 23-24 are pending. Claims 1 and 14 has been amended to correct minor informalities and English usage. No new matter has been presented.

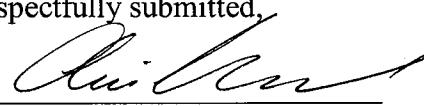
Claims 1-3, 6, 14-16 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zimmer, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2004/0255171 in view of Nara, U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0017620, further in view of Sasaki, U.S. Patent No. 7,243,126. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

A certified translation of the priority document has been submitted with this filing to perfect the claim of priority of this application. The effective filing date of the application predates the filing date of Zimmer. Thus, Zimmer is not prior art and cannot be relied upon as basis for an obviousness rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Accordingly, claims 1-6, 14-19 and 23-24 are allowable.

In view of the above, each of the claims in this application is in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, applicants petition for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing docket no. **325772035900**.

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Respectfully submitted,

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